

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Plantin'-Time.

When a boy, Uncle Theodore had a teacher who was allus askin', "What yer plantin' ter-day, boys?" We thought it pow'ful curus, seein' none o' us had gardens, but one day in spring-time, when the sun was shinin' bright, an' the maples was hangin' out their leetle red flags, an' the bluebirds was a-singin', he said, "Boys, I want yer ter plant things wuth while. Bimeby I won't be here, an' yer'll fergit ver old teacher, but I'd like ter know that yer'd planted sumthin' that 'u'd last. I allus try ter plant as ef I'd live a hundred years, an' ter live like every day was my last, an' so I'd like ter see yer plantin' fer the futur. Yer know them nut-trees 'long the river-road, where we had sech a frolic last fall? Wall, the man who planted 'em has been gone more'n twenty years, but his trees will pervide sumthin' good fer gen'rations."

This thoughtful teacher went ter his reward long ago, but when spring comes Uncle Theodore allus wants ter ask his young friends, "What yer plantin' ter-day, boys?"

Readin' lately 'bout young folks plantin' vines an' flowers, an' beautifyin' their homes an' school-yards, Uncle Theodore couldn't help thinkin' what a heap better chance country folks has fer doin' sech things. Town-improvement clubs are startin' all over the land, but country-improvement clubs 'u'd pay ekerly well. Why not somebody make a beginnin', an' then his neighbors 'u'd foller like a flock o' sheep. Even ef 'twas only a "Pick-up" club, ter remove an' destroy rubbish that litters streets an' yards, an' then plant a few mornin'-glories 'long fences er 'round out-buildin's, 'twould make a heap o' diff'rence in the looks o' the place, an' bimeby they'd want ter git a few shrubs an' posies under the winders. Then they'd manage suthin' ter keep chickens an' pigs out o' the front yard, an' cut the grass, an' keep down the weeds, 'specially thistles an' docks. What a chance these young people has in the country if they could only see it, an' make a fashion 'mong their neighbors ter slick up! How things would grow in the sweet country air, an' how easy 'twould be ter feed the growin' things; an' best of all, how dear the old home 'u'd be ter these happy planters!

Young folks most gener'ly haven't the long-sightedness o' old ones, but they've amazin' infloonce ter help along good things when somebody shows 'em how. Uncle Theodore rejoices when he 'members the great army o' bright youth who are marchin' forrard, workin' fer the world an' its home-bringin'. But some fellers are like Uncle Eb's mill-pond—jest layin' in the sun, an' growin' up ter weeds. That pond's gittin' leetler every year, 'mountin' ter nuthin' 'cept ter sp'ile a good pastur-lot, an' they are shrivelin', an' standin' in the way all the time.

Then it do beat all how some folks

never think 'bout their plantin' till the spring rush is on 'em. Bimeby dry times come, an' their crops 'mount ter nuthin. 'Stead o' sittin' down an' lookin' over their fields an' mappin' out plans, they jest go at it hilter-skitler, an' 'thout knowin' zackly what they mean ter do.

Now, there was old Jerry Tyler, allus complainin' 'bout his hard luck. When his neighbors' fields were growin' an' thrivin', his corn an' taters was jest strugglin' 'bove ground. Bein' gener'ly behind in plantin', his crops never kitched up with his neighbors'. He couldn't "take time by the forelock," but had no trouble plantin' pennies. It's gener'ly so, that folks havin' fewest pennies plants 'em wastefully. They don't know it, mebbe, but the nickels planted fer terbacker an' beer an' gamin' don't yield crops o' nickels er pennies.

It 'minds me o' the knives us boys used ter plant. Whenever we'd ask daddy fer his knife ter make a whistle er a sling-shot, he'd say, "When d'ye look fer a crop from them knives yer've been plantin' so long?" 'Cause no matter how many he'd bought fer us, we never had one. Well, sence I've growed up it seems as ef some folks plant pennies jest as we did knives. "'Tain't nuthin but a penny," says they, er "it's only a nickel, an' 'taint wuth savin'." An' so they never save, er think o' plantin' their pennies so they can last died in the poor-house, an' only

Now, there was Charley Brown, as likely a young feller as could be found—handsome an' friendly, an' everybody thought he'd make some girl a right smart husband. But all of a sudden he took ter plantin' his pennies fer 'games an' beer, an' 'twa'n't long 'fore he'd squandered the money his grandfather saved fer him, an' then all his earnin's fer drink, an' bimeby he took sick, an' at reap from them bimeby. his poor old mother ter mourn fer him.

Then there was another chap, poor as a church-mouse—he'd never had a penny give ter him. But he was a worker, an' when he had a spare nickel he put it away, till he saved enough ter subscribe ter a paper er ter buy a book. 'Twa'n't long 'fore Barney had the beginnin' o' a good lib'ry, an' a snug leetle bank account. Some young folks called him stingy 'cause he wouldn't go larkin' an' spend his money fer frolics; but at last they was glad ter have Barney's help ter git a start in life. He's gittin' an old man now, an' his children have growed up readin' them same books, an' the idees they learned have sent 'em out inter the world ter be editin' an' prachin' an' plantin' over an' over the good seed their pa sowed when them "smart Alecks" was makin' fun o' him. It do beat all how good seed is bound ter grow an' keep on workin'.—Uncle Theodore in Farm and Fireside.

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